

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Heidi Duckler Dance
Presents
Unsettling Ramona Salon Series**



**UNSETTLING
RAMONA
SALON SERIES**

LOS ANGELES (August 6, 2020) – Los Angeles-based dance company Heidi Duckler Dance (HDD) presents a 3-part series of virtual programs amplifying the histories and contemporary experiences of Native Americans in California through art, music, conversation and a deep dive into the story of Ramona. The salons will take place on three consecutive Thursdays: August 13th, August 20th, and August 27th at 5pm PDT.

In 2018, Heidi Duckler Dance began an initiative Ramona: Reimagining, Unsettling and Reckoning. Based on the story of Ramona inspired by what some consider the quintessential California story of the same name, written in 1884 by Helen Hunt Jackson. The first performance in 2018 was at San Gabriel Mission Playhouse. The second performance in December 2020 will be at the Southwest Museum Los Angeles.

In preparation for the December performance, HDD is presenting our Unsettling Ramona Salon Series by working collaboratively with Native perspectives to “unsettle” a story that was both important in creating visibility for the issue of Native rights in America and also problematic in that it romanticized California’s history and ultimately failed to create political change. Recognizing our own positionality and complicity working and performing on land we are guests in, our company is honored to be joined by highly respected indigenous artists, activists, scholars, and thought leaders from Southern California. Our collaborators will share their work, lived experiences, and expertise on Native American history while examining the story of Ramona. Building towards a holistic understanding of these histories and perspectives will inform HDD’s new “Unsettling Ramona” performance.

Heidi Duckler Dance kicks off this salon series with “Unsettling Story” featuring Diné multimedia documentarian Pamela J. Peters who was born and raised on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona and scholar Dr. Yve Chavez who was born and raised in Los Angeles, California as a member of the Tongva tribe. Dr. Chavez will discuss the history of California’s missions and their role in shaping public perception of Spanish colonial legacies and Indigenous experiences in Southern California from the late nineteenth century through today. Pamela will explore how Indian representation and removal policies are translated in Hollywood filmmaking and how visual sovereignty through a Native lens can promote the perseverance of Native American/American Indian community populations despite decades of colonial assimilationist policies.



This project is funded in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Learn more at arts.ca.gov.

Tickets: Free with RSVP

RSVP at: <http://unsettlingsalonseries.eventbrite.com/>

Media Information:

For questions please contact Anna Chang at anna@heididuckler.org.

Details for Calendar Listings:

What and When: *Unsettling Ramona Salon Series*, virtual programs 5pm PDT

Thurs Aug 13th : *Unsettling Story*

w/ Pamela J. Peters, Filmmaker and Dr. Yve Chavez, Assistant Professor UCSanta Cruz

Thurs Aug 20th : *Unsettling Self*

w/ Robert I. Mesa, Filmmaker, Duane Minard, Actor, and DeLanna Studi, Artistic Director of The Autry’s Native Voices

Thurs Aug 27th : *Unsettling Sound*

w/ Kristen Martinez, Scholar and Musician and Dr. Theresa Gregor, Assistant Professor CSU Long Beach

Who: Heidi Duckler Dance

Where: Zoom

Heidi Duckler Dance creates place-based performances that transform non-traditional spaces, providing learning opportunities and engaging diverse communities, in the belief that the arts can change our vision of the world and of ourselves.

About Heidi Duckler Dance:

Founded in 1985, Heidi Duckler Dance (HDD) continues to redefine the relationship between audience and art. HDD has developed a participatory and transparent practice in which each project is generated in collaboration with the community it serves.

Over the past 35 years, HDD has produced over 400 original works locally, nationally and internationally, creating interdisciplinary performances in many iconic locations, including: the Ambassador Hotel, LA City Hall, Van Nuys Flyaway Bus Terminal, Dunbar Hotel and on the Tall Ships at the Port of LA and in many diverse LA neighborhoods, including: Downtown LA (the Historic Core, Arts District, Produce District and Fashion District), Boyle Heights, Koreatown, Studio City, Van Nuys, Hollywood, Venice, San Pedro and South LA – as well as cities across the Greater LA Area, including: the Antelope Valley, West Hollywood, Culver City, Santa Monica, Agoura Hills, Ventura, Rancho Palos Verdes, San Bernardino and San Gabriel. Duckler also frequently creates work in Portland, Oregon with HDD's sister company, Heidi Duckler Dance/Northwest.

HDD's programs reach more than 7,500 individuals each year. Its youth arts education programs, established in 2013, have served over 10,000 youth and families at over 25 schools and community centers throughout the City, with an emphasis on low-income communities. HDD is a company of 12 resident artists and 5 staff committed to upholding inclusiveness, consciousness, vulnerability, and connectivity through their craft.

This year HDD was awarded grants for upcoming performances and arts education initiatives including; LA County Arts Commission, California Arts Council, LA Dept of Cultural Affairs, The Ralph Parsons Foundation, National Trust for Historic Preservation, DEW Foundation, California Community Foundation, Annenberg Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

<http://heididuckler.org/>

About Pamela J. Peters

Pamela J. Peters is a Diné multimedia documentarian and artist from the Navajo Reservation in Arizona. Pamela is from the Táchii'nii (Red Running Into the Water People clan). She is a multimedia artist, producing works she regards as "Indigenous Realism" exploring the lives and diversities of real American Indians. As an artist and curator, she pushes viewers to critically analyze the psychological and historical structures of Native Americans in mass media through an Indigenous lens while expressing creative sovereignty. She lives in Los Angeles.

<https://pamelajpeters.com/>

About Dr. Yve Chavez



[Dr. Yve Chavez](#) is a member of the Tongva community of Los Angeles and an assistant professor in the History of Art and Visual Culture Department at UC Santa Cruz. Her research examines the artistic contributions of California's first peoples at the missions and California Indian visual culture.

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